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## Christmas Festivities in Foreign Lands

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he is encouraged to build his pyramid across the room from his blocks and thus must remember and image the size. This makes splendid training for comparing and estimating sizes with the eye.

Long and short and thick and thin are taught by the long stairway and the broad stairway. The long stairway is made up of sticks of wood about an inch and a half in thickness and varying in length from six inches to three feet. The child builds the stairway with these. The big stairs are built with blocks about ten inches long, varying in thickness from five-tenths square inches to five square inches.

Color perception is trained by means of spools of different colored yarns and various gradations of each color. Many fascinating games can be played with these color spools. To be able to judge various textiles by the sense of touch alone is a valuable asset to any one, but how many can do it? The child trained in the Montessori way is given pieces of different types of materials, wool, cotton, linen, and grades of these. He is told briefly their names and learns to distinguish them when he is blindfolded. This can be made into another interesting game and calls forth the keenest competition from the children.

I could go on and on describing the whole set of apparatus, but I only wish to give an idea of the simplicity of the various articles which any clever parent can make for herself. The idea is the big thing.

Of course the ideal way of training our

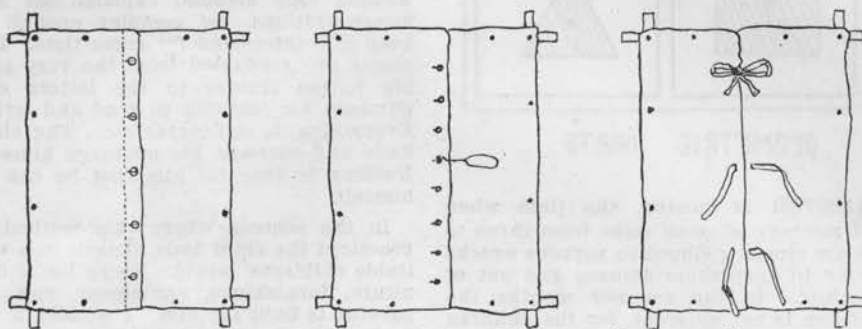
youngsters would be to buy a complete set of Montessori apparatus. This is expensive, costing about fifty dollars complete, altho not so expensive when we consider the superior results obtained. Fifty dollars worth of groceries and clothes to care for the physical needs of our child is a small sum, but people are prone to neglect the intellectual needs of children. Who can say which is the more important?

No mother need despair even tho she cannot afford a complete set of Montessori apparatus. If she catches the true spirit of the training she will find enough of the apparatus in her own home to keep her child busily amused during the long winter months and give him some valuable training besides. There is absolutely nothing new in this method—just the collection of apparatus and applica-

tion is novel.

If you do not have the button frames, use a rag doll that fits some of child's own clothes and watch him dress and undress and learn to manipulate any kind of a fastening you give him. Geometric insets can be cut by any father from pieces of thin boards. Handles can be made from empty spools. The rough and smooth apparatus is very simple to make. The color spools can be made from any sewing box by wrapping cardboard spools with different colored threads. The games that can be played with these spools are innumerable. The different kinds of textiles can be collected from the scrap bag.

Ideas galore for enlarging upon this apparatus and supplying it in the home will present themselves to the clever mother who cares and thinks.



Tie and button frames are instructive as well as amusing.

## Christmas Festivities in Foreign Lands

By BARBARA DEWELL

WHILE you are busy stringing popcorn for your Christmas tree, or making your Christmas plum pudding, have you ever wondered what people in foreign lands are doing?

Mrs. Daniel Retief, a student at Iowa State College, from South Africa, told me of their Christmas holidays.

"Our Christmas," she said, "is not so different from yours, because we are practically Christianized. Instead of snow and ice, as you have, our gardens of blue salvia, red and yellow cactus and roses; our orange and apple and apricot orchards are all in full bloom.

"The Christmas program is held out of doors and of course the Christmas tree is the center of attraction.

"On Christmas morning the children arise to see what 'Father Christmas'—the name we give your 'Santa Claus'—has put in their stockings.

"The servants, native blacks, come to their masters and mistresses and smiling broadly say, 'Good morning, Christmas box'."

"These may be the only four English words they know, but they eagerly look forward to the presents in the box."

Mr. Hsiu, a student at Iowa State College from the south central part of China, had an altogether different story to tell.

"You see," he said, "the largest part of my country is not Christianized. We do not celebrate Christmas as you do, except in the mission schools.

"Our religious festivities come about the time of your New Year and last for fifteen days. The first thing we try to do, on the first day, is to clear every debt. If we can do that, then we have the privilege (?) of spending a whole night without sleep. Firecrackers and fireworks, and Chinese music fill the night. Old and young are arrayed in gala dress. The children generally have new suits.

"These fifteen days," he continued, "are spent chiefly in visiting and playing games. We can play any game we wish just so we do not harm the public.

"Every day of the celebration two dragon plays are given, a day play and a night play.

"In the day play a huge dragon is made of bamboo and covered with a coarse cloth. This cloth has many Chinese characters on it that might say in your language 'Merry Christmas' or 'Happy New Year', or 'Best Wishes'. This dragon is from fifteen to thirty feet long, and is carried from house to house, followed by large groups of people. When the dragon comes to any house the people living there have food ready to serve to the group following it, and give money to help carry on the fun.

"The play during the day lasts from morning until sundown. Then the night play begins.

"This is a dragon and lion play. The dragon is lighted on the inside with many lanterns, and several people crawl into

the lion to make it move. The dragon curls into a circle with the lion in the center, and they play back and forth, trying to see which one will conquer. Every person carries a lighted lantern and watches the game they play.

"On the last day of the religious festivities the farmers put lighted lanterns in all their fields. These lanterns have a sacred charm on the land and destroy all insects that might come to devour a crop."

The Armenian Christmas is different from either the South African or Chinese. Their Christmas comes at a different time from ours for they use the Greek calendar and are therefore fourteen years later in date than we are.

Mr. Sarkisan, an Iowa State College student from Armenia told of their Christmas holidays.

"For a week before Christmas," he said, "we fast. We do not eat meat or animal oils, but we eat fresh and dried fruits and candies. The fast is broken at the end of a week, when a large festival and banquet are held. Groups of boys, carrying lighted lanterns, go from house to house to tell the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ. They chant and sing and shout hallelujas. As they leave, the family in that house gives them some kind of a gift.

"The regular Christmas celebration last three days. Most of this time is spent at home, enjoying oneself. Very few gifts

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the pan, over the bird. If a thick crust is desired a paste of four tablespoons of butter and four tablespoons of flour may be rubbed over the bird before placing it in the oven. Basting with fat on the plain surface, however, makes a caramelized thin brown crust.

The fowl is sufficiently roasted when the joints separate easily and when the juice flows readily when the skin is pierced.

#### Time Table

- Chicken—25 to 30 minutes per lb.  
 Goose (9-lb.)—Total, 2½ hours.  
 Duck (domestic)—Total, 1 to 2¼ hours.  
 Duck (wild)—Total, ½ to ¾ hours.  
 Turkey (9 to 10 lbs.)—Three hours.

The skewers and string removed from the fowl, it is ready for the hot serving platter.

#### Recipes for Stuffing

##### Poultry Stuffing

- 2 cups bread crumbs or soft cubes  
 ½ cup butter or melted poultry fat  
 ½ tsp. salt  
 ¼ tsp. pepper  
 ½ tsp. poultry seasoning  
 Water to moisten  
 ¼ tsp. majoram  
 Onion to flavor

Mix ingredients well and season to taste. Egg yolks often found in fowl improve flavor of the stuffing. Add water until just consistency to pack well. Will stuff one fowl, duck or goose.

##### Variations of Poultry Stuffing

- A. Fruit Stuffings. Suitable for duck or goose.
1. Prunes, ½ cup; soak, pit, add to stuffing.
  2. Raisins, ½ cup; wash, add to stuffing.
  3. Apple (raw), ½ cup; cut in small pieces, add to stuffing.
- B. Meat Stuffing.
1. Giblets—from turkey or fowl. Grind giblets fine; add to stuffing and season well.
  2. Sausage. Suitable for roast goose. Links (small, 3. Apples (chopped), 1/3 cup. Chop, blend with stuffing.
- C. Nut Stuffings. Suitable for turkeys.
1. Chestnut. Chestnuts, ½ cup. Shell, blanch and cook until tender in boiling salted water. Drain mash and add to stuffing.
  2. Peanut. Suitable for goose. Peanuts (hulled), ½ cup. Chop, add to stuffing and season well.
  3. Walnut. Suitable for turkey. English walnut meats, ½ cup. Chop, add to stuffing and season well.
- D. Oyster Stuffing. Suitable for turkeys or chicken. Oysters, 1 cup. Wash oysters, blend with seasonings in stuffing.
- E. Vegetable Stuffing. Chopped celery, ½ cup Parsley. Chop and add to stuffing.

##### Giblet Gravy

- Fat in pan, ¼ cup  
 Flour, ¼ cup  
 Milk, 2 to 2½ cups  
 Giblets (chopped)

Blend fat with flour and stir in milk slowly. Add giblets and simmer, stirring constantly until it is of the desired consistency.

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## Christmas Festivities in Foreign Lands

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are exchanged—these only between the closest of relatives, as a mother to her child.

"After the Saturday night festivities, about one o'clock in the morning, everyone goes to church. The church is gorgeously decorated, and there is much beautiful singing. Holy oil made by the Pope and Monks at 'Etchmiatzin,' the Pope's home, is in large golden bird shaped vessels. The holy oil drops from the beaks of the birds and as the people pass, they moisten their hands and touch their faces with it. This holy oil is made from the blossoms of thousands of beautiful flowers, by pouring olive oil over them. This is let stand for many days in golden jars while the Pope and Monks pray over it.

"The priest blesses and gives bread to each house he visits. Then he receives a gift in return. As he leaves, everyone kisses the Bible and the priest blesses each one individually.

"Food and good red wine is served and everyone is very happy," and here Mr. Sarkisan smiled, for he said, "Where there is wine, then there is much singing and happiness."

Mr. Malca, of Peru, South America, also a student at Iowa State College, told me that in his country, Christmas is a very sacred affair.

"We do not try to have a good time,"

he said, "for it is a religious holiday. We go to services all day long, high mass, beginning as early as four o'clock in the morning. The women always attend the services dressed in black, with large shawls thrown over their head and shoulders.

"The churches are beautifully decorated and there is much singing. Nearly half of every church is devoted to a raised monument to represent the birth of Jesus Christ. This monument shows the Virgin and Christ, and is made as nearly as possible like the stable in which Christ was born. The three wise men, who came with gifts for the new born Christ are also shown. After the services are over at one church, the congregation goes to all the other churches to see their monuments and decorations.

## Christmas Dinner for Two

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### Economy Fruit Cake (2 loaves)

Boil together for 5 minutes:

- 2 c. sugar  
 2 c. water  
 2 heaping T. shortening  
 1 lb. seeded raisins

When cool, add 1 t. soda (heaping), sift together 3 c. flour, 1 t. salt, ½ t. cloves, 1 t. cinnamon, and 1 t. nutmeg. Add to first mixture. Bake in moderate oven for 45 minutes.

The final effect may be produced if you carry the holly-decked pudding to the table enveloped in flames, the result of